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## PRISON REFORM.

"A Wall of Influence Stronger Than a Wall of Granite."

MEETING AT STEINWAY HALL.

The Present Criminal Code Defective.

Interesting Address by Dr. Wines, United States Commissioner on Prison Reform-The Discipline and Proper Treatment of Criminals Explained-The National Prison Association and Its Successful Efforts-Speeches by Ex-Governor Seymour. Ex-Lieutenant Governor Wayland, &c.-The Resolutions Adopted.

meeting was held last evening at Steinway Hall promote the cause of the International Prison ngress which is to assemble in London next The main object of the gathering, however, was to hear from Dr. Wines, Commissioner of the United states to organize an International Penitentiary Congress, a statement of the progress and results of his mission. The meeting was likewise in a measure responsive to a similar ne held in London last November, and endorsed the action of the European and South American ed to give expression to the voice and sentiment of America on this subject, and to take the neces-sary measures, so far as the United States is concerned, for the meeting of the Congress. There was a pretty large attendance, though it was hardly so numerous as was generally expected, while the absence of several of the distinguished speakers announced to take part in the proceedings caused some disappointment. But there was nevertheless manifested the deepest interest in the great cause of prison reform. At eight o'clock the platform vas occupied by several distinguished gentlemen. On entering ex-Governor Seymour was greeted of the an enthusiastic welcome.

Dr. Prime called the meeting to order. He said:—

The occasion appeals to our interests as citizens, to or judgment as philanthropists, to hearts as followers of Him who said, "I was to prison, and ye came anto me." With us to-night are distinguished statesmen and churchmen-the law and the Gospel blending in this divine mission-and their presence gives moral grandeur to the hour. Forty years ago the King of the French sent two of his most emiment men-Beaumont, his Attorney General, and De Tocqueville-to study our prison sys-They came to Sing Sing, where I was then a teacher. We had a sunday school in the State Prison, which these French com-De Tocqueville stood by my side holding the Bible n his hand while a felon convict recited verbatim wo entire and beautiful chapters from the ospel of St. John. Turning to me, the great hislorian and statesman said, "Has not this instruction ach to do with the government of the prison sit noral of it went with them. They recorded the immy school-not in the prison, but in Academy-was a boy, then learning his diphabet, and his name was John. He subsequently became the Chief Magistrate of this city, d is now the justly honored Governor of the have with us one who, by common consent, is in

inthropist and social philosopher, and I pro-that Mr. Horatto Seymour be requested to pre-Mr. Horatio Seymour's Address.

Mr. Horatio Seymour, on coming forward, was received with enthusiastic adplause. He said that we had lately had in our community crimes of violence, fraud and corruption, which at this time startle the American public. They excite general midignation and slarin, and the offenders are pointed at as men to be scorned and detested. But this does not touch nor cure the underlying causes of these evils. These men had no such genius in crime that they could, of themselves, work out all their baleful deeds it there had not been a state of morals and a depraved public opinion which gave a hotbed growth to their powers to work mischief. They did not make corruption. Corruption made them. They lived and moved unknown and unnoticed until they were made pestilental by favoring circumstances, just as the larking diseases are made wide-sweeping plagues when a foul atcelle in a large and truinful way without arragaing the public. In no other civilized country, and,
et me add for the honor of our country, at no other
period of its history, would such men be tolerated
for a single day. Just now there is
enough of indignation against criminals; too much,
indeed, if its offlist me minis of our people that they
forget to look for the causes of those cvils, if they neglect the duty of finding out how much of the guilt
can be traced back to themselves. Unless we confront
the disorders of the times in a bold and carnest
way, so shad uney may be followed by shadeler
which will spring up in its place. Crimes do not
show so clearly the character of the criminals as
they do the social aspect of the communities in which
they are committed. All who study the problems
of government are struck with the fact that
the American people are in many ways most
neglectind political strife, passion and prejudice,
but the feeling that weath and power and miduence
have duties as well as rights is very wear. In this
report our men of wealth fair faching the
real will take part in questions of government,
focal or generat, where one of our city merchanis
lecis that in some way he may compromise his digminy and position if ne does not give the world to
understand that he looks upon all suen things
as unworthy averation from the great duty of
taking care of himself and his personal affairs. Dr.
Wines, at whose instance this meeting is held, has
just come back from Europe, where he went to lay
through the properson of crimes and the
reformation of the surpression of crimes and the
reformation of the great subject. We come here
to-night to excit a like interest in the minds of the
American people. Above all, we hope we can sur
tup our men of influence to a sense of the great
truths so constantly forgotten in the excitement of city life that wealth and business
and powers have duties as well as rights.

Mr. Sepronour than proceeded to this such as
the country average of the prosent criminal code
the

that there is some sharp daily punishment for each day spent in idle, disorderly conduct, it is certainly a deep disgrace to our laws that they now tempt idle, vicious men to pursue their vile courses by shutting them up in cells where they enjoy a debased intercourse with kindred wretches. However perplexing the questions may be which meet us in our efforts to suppress vice, we must grappile them with courage and confidence. We can work out great reforms. We can make life and property more secure. We can life up fallen men. We can check the tide of vice and crime. In doing this we shall not only serve and save others, but do much for ourselves. He who enters upon this duty will find it full of interest, I might say fascination. It gives an insight of human nature which can be gained in no other way. It does not lead to harsh or unkind views of our fellow men. I have neid the lives and liberties of great numbers in my hands. I have heard many thousands of prayers for pardon. I have heard intercourse with those holding the highest places down to those living in the groomest cells. I have seen and felt as much as most men of the harshness and bitterness of the strife of this world. All this experience has fed me to feel kindly toward my fellow man. The longer I live the better I think of men's hearts and the less of their head. I grow more and more disposed to charge the evils men do to their infirmities, and the more deeply am I impressed with the great truth of that religion which teaches no the enter infirmities, and the more deeply am I impressed with the great truth of that religion which teaches not not and a merciful God to toget that several disand transgressions. (Cheers.)
Dr. Wines expressed his regret that several distinguished orators expected to be present were unavoidably detained. He then read, among others, the following letters of apology:—

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT GRANT.
EXECUTIVE MANSION, 
EXECUTIVE MANSION, 
WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 25. 1872.4

DRAR SIR—I am in receipt of your letter inviting me to attend the public meeting to be held in New York city on the Bith inst., under the auspices of the National Prison Association.

beg to assure you of the interest a receive your hast of pentientiary reform.

The cause in which you are laboring has my warmest symmetre cause in which you are laboring has my warmest symplectic yours, and my best wishes for its success, very respectfully yours,

Mr. E. C. WINES, New York city. Mr. E. C. WINES, New York city.

ILETTER FROM GOVERNOR HOFFMAN.

STATE OF NEW YORE, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, ALBANY, Jan. 24, 1872. 4.

SIR—I find that it will be out of my power to attend the meeting to be beld at Sicinway Hall on the 26th finst., to consider the object of prison reform. I am to strong sympatiwith the purposes of the promoters of the meeting, and believe, with them, that the diministion of crime, the improvement of prison discipline as objects which need the efforts of all good men. Conference among the friends of prison reform in the several States our Union, and as you now propose a consultation amothous in this country and in Europe was take special terest in the subjects, will tend to throw much light on t question of the direction in which efforts for improvement are likely to be most successful and of what are the be

Rev. E. F. Winie, D. D., LL.D.

Dr. Wines stated that he had received letters from archbishop McCloskey, C. H. Scribner, W. S. Kedy, W. H. Seward, Governors Jewe, Parker and Washburn; Messrs. Noyes, Kerr, Hayes, Rev. McCosh and Senator Chandler regretting their absence, and letters from the Ministers of all, nearly all, the European countries sympathizing with the object of the meeting.

The Chairman then announced that Dr. Wings, whose energy and ability he highly enlogized, would now report the progress of his mission abroad. Rev. E. F. WINES, D. D., LL.D.

would now report the progress of his mission abroad.

DR. WINE'S ADDRESS.

Dr. Wine said:—It is a high authority which tells us that "It must needs be that offences come." Trime is as old as the world. The first death inat occurred on this earth was a death by violence—a murder—prompted by a brother's lealousy and hate. That death bequeathed to us an innertance of crime, which has been the baleful patrimony of the race through all the ages. The proper treatment of crime and criminals is, therefore, a proolem as old and as wide as humanity itself. But it is a proolem which slumbered for nearly six thousand years. It is only within the last century that it has received the consideration which it deserves, and only within the last half of the century that it has provoked that spirit of keen and comprehensive inquiry which marks the era of true science and gives token of a real advance in civilization. The study of this problem has now become world-wide, and is pursued with unprecedented intelligence and zeal. The question of prison reform has taken a strong hold on the public mind in this and other countries. Men begin to see that it is one which concerns the safety of their lives and property. As it unfolds itself in all its length and breadth, it will be seen to be, if not the foremost question, at least among the foremost questions, of the day. There was held at Cincinnat, in the autumn of 1870, a National Prison assectation, an idea which has since been happily carried into effect. The objects of the Association, briefly stated, are:—The americation of the criminal law, the improvement of the penal and reformatory institutions of the country, and an areases study of the means and appliances best suited to save discharzed prisoners irom a relapse. There is not to-day a reform more necessary than that of the penal codes of the several States. Everys nere there is needed an administration of a property.

ment of the penal and reformatory institutions of the country, and an carnest study of the means and appliances best suited to save discharged prisoners from a relapse. There is not to-day a reform more necessary than that of the penal codes of the several States. Everywhere there is needed an administration of criminal justice more prompt, more effective, more humane, more reformatory. The improvement of our benal and correctional establishments is no less important, no less vital, the question how to hold liberated prisoners to their honest intents, now to keep them from failing back into crime, is one equally momentous; and it concerns the community as deeply as it does the criminal. The American Prison Association charges itself with the duity of studying, and, if possible, of solving the problems just statest, which are as grave as they are difficult. The Association assumes the further duty of visiting the prisons and reformatories of the country, especially in States where such establishments are in an unsettled condition, and of adding the authorities in charge, by information and suggestion, in the work of improvement. Still another duty of the Society will be that of offering an annual review of the state and condition of prisons and of the progress of prison reform in this and other countries, an essential part of which will be the most complete exhibition attainable of penitentiary statistics.

The Congress of Cincinnati further voted that the time had come when, in its judgment, an international penitentiary Congress might be convened with promise of the best results. One of the first acts of the National Prison Association was to reaffirm the action of the Cincinnati meeting, and pass a resolution to push that idea with all practicable vigor. The person now addressing you was caused by the Association, as he had previously been by the Association, as he had previously been by the Congress, with this grave duty. My first effort, in the fulliment of the duty thus laid upon me, was to secure the supp

ments of Europe through the American Ministers accredited to them. Three things were asked of each, viz.:—

1. That it would send commissioners to the Congress.

2. That it would name a national committee for its own country.

3. That it would furnish, in reply to a series of questions, certain information concerning its prisons and prison administration.

These requests were readily granted. Everywhere the idea of the Congress was accepted by the governments, and assurances were given, not of sympathy only, but of active co-operation. In illustration of the spirit in which the proposition for the Congress was received, I cite the official action of the Italian government. It consists of two parts:—First, a report addressed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Lanza, to Victor Emmanuel, in which he proposes to His Majesty the creation, by royal decree, of a National Committee or Commission for Italy; and secondry, the decree itself, issued in pursuance of Mr. Lanza's recommendation. I will not trouble the meeting with the reading of this document in Ital, but will cite a paragraph of two as showing the spirit that breathes through the whole paper. Mr. Lanza says:—

A preparatory Congress was held in October, 1870, at Cincinnati (State of Obio), through the distribution. Many and important questions were raised in the Congress, and a series of maxima on prison discipling, which deserve the most carnest consideration, was adopted. The necessary measures were also taken for convening the Congress in London, in August, 1872, and a Commissioner, who was also taken for convening the most garners were also taken for convening the forms and the series of maxima on prison discipline, which deserve the most garnest consideration, was adopted. The necessary measures were also taken for convening the forms of the surface of the present reporter, who, comprehending the publishers of the mission

American association to the noise undertaking which it has proposed to Healt.

The royal decree named a committee of twenty eniment citizens to ace for Raly in healt of the Congress; also to study the most important question of the constituted, includes several high functionances of the constituted, includes several high functionances of the State the Mayor of Forence and President of Law, the Director General and two Imagencers General of Prisons, &c. The government of the North Cerman Union was no less cordial, no less carnels, few days ago that I received from Count Entenburg. It was the control to the forence of the State that the Mayor of Forence and President of Prisons, &c. The government of the North Cerman Union was no less cordial, no less carnels, few days ago that I received from Count Entenburg. It was the monor to more you that, according to interest of the city of the control of the County of the C

for England was named by the meeting, consisting of more than a hundred persons, among whom are the Archbisop of Canterbury, the Lord Bishop of London, Arcucishop Manning. Dean Stanley, the Lord Chancellors of England and Ireland, the Dukes of Argyll and Northumberland, the Marquis of Saltsbury, the Earls of Shattesbury, Granville and Carinryon, Sir Stafford Northcote, Sir John Pakington, Sir Walter Crofton, Miss Florence Nightingale, Miss Mary Carbenter, Thomas Hughes, M. F.; Matthew Davenport Hill, John Suart Mill and many others of distinguished name.

ter, Thomas Rughes, M. P.; Matthew Daveaport Hill, John Stuart Mil and many others of distinguished name.

Since my return to America I have learned from the Ministers of the Spanish-speaking republics of America, as well as of the empire of Brazil, that their governments are preparing, with no less zeal than the governments of Europe, to take part in what Mr. Lanza has, in felicious parase, designated as "units great scientifico-social movement." So that there is good reason to believe that there will be few, if any, among the civilized nations of the world that will not be present, by their representatives, in the Convention. I beg to call the attention of this meeting to an important tanginie result, which, it may be fairly hoped, will be among the issues of the Congress. There can be no doubt that a large amount of latormation on all points connected with prison discipline and the repression of crime will have been collected by the Congress, that certain general principles will have been agreed upon, and that a strong impulse will have been given to the cause of pentlentary reform throughout the world. But if the matter stop here the lators of the Congress will have been comparatively barren of permanent results, because the momentum gamed will soon have expended itself. It

some "of the more remarkable process," will but briefly allude to one or two, and first to what is commonly known as the Irish prison system, but ought, in my judgment, to be called the Crotton system, after the name of its author, the Right hon, Sir Watter Crotton. I knew the system from books before going abroad, and had conceived a night opinion of its merits, and that impression was condrused by personal examination. The great leature of the Crotton system is that it plants hope in the breast of the prisoner from the first hour of his confineding of the prisoner in the first hour of his confineding of the prisoner in the first hour of his confineding of the prisoner in the first hour of his confineding of the prisoner in the first hour of his confineding of the prisoner in the first hour of his confineding of the prisoner in the first hour of his confineding of the prisoner in the first hour of his confineding of the first hour of his confineding a handred inmates, and a farm of two nundred sides—an extancishment without bars, other, on only two escapes have taken place. Interest will in no wall;" In other words, that a wall of influence is stronger than a wall of grante. The first hour of his confineding his confineding his confineding his confineding his first hour of his confineding his confineding his first his confined his confineding his confineding his first his confineding his first his confineding his confine

examples from most of the prominent European examples from most of the prominent European and American artists. Indeed, so Tairly are the schools represented that the collection may be regarded as a synopsis of modern art, Those who desire to become acquainted with the style of the various schools cannot do better than visit this exhibition. It would be impossible for us to do justice to the many excellent works which town this exhibition and therefore we will which form this collection, and, therefore, we will

content ourselves with mentioning a few of the most striking paintings, as they occur to us.

"THE JOLLY MUSICIANS"

(133), by Madon, at once arrests our attention. It is one of those paintings which could not be mistaken by those least skilled in art as the work of an ordinary or mediciber artist. It tells its story with force and directness, and breathes a spirit of droilery which is absolutely infectious. The two old boys are drunk, but have only reached that state of fuddle when the actions of the meoritate are marked by a comical gravity which would make a total abstancer smile in spite of miself. His technical handling is marked of miself. Our and freedom, strength and single. There is everywhere in the demons of draws traces of the hand of a master. Unfortunately, the artist has not paid the same attention to the barmaid, who is seen in the background. This figure exhibits traces of carelessness, which is to be regretted. Without exception, the best painting in the gallery, as displaying power and finish, is the "Morting And Cultud" and displays nothing of the harrowing lusignt into human woe that lend to his works such an unpleasant interest. Ordinarity we are moved by the passion or sorrow depicted by the artist, who seems to exercise a strange flascination when we would tan escape from, but which, with true encanner's power, will still parase us. His "Mother and Child" are entirely iree from this morbid sentiment. The fluores and paraset of such as a ripe peach, and the mother is the very impersonation of tenderness. The figures and paraset of the form is deep soundly, is as rosy and pining as a ripe peach, and the mother is the very impersonation of tenderness. The figures and provided the provided that the parasets and suavity of outline rare among the greatest and suavity of outline rare among the provided provide

# THE CUSTOM HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Another Instalment of Mudgett's Revelations.

What He Knows and Believes About the Military Ring-One of Porter's "Errors of Statement" Discovered-More About the General Order Business and Corruptions of the Custom House.

### IMPORTANT EVENING SESSION.

Letter from Secretary Boutwall--- More Evidence Relative to Bribery.

The Custom House Committee met again yesterday morning at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. There was

a slim attendance of the outside public. testified that on one occasion he had given an in-spector, whose name he did not remember, a graspector, whose hams he did not remember, a grat-tuity for giving him notice where a permit could be sent to the best advantage; he thought it was only natural that merchants should not be very willing to come before the committee and give evidence on this point, because the inspectors had the power to give them a great deal of embarrassment.

Stocking's general order stores, was the next witness. He testified:—Have been in the warehouse

the point, breaks the important had the power to the contract to the contract

was a few days before I met Colonel Leet; Leet said that he expected to have the contract for the public order stores; I said that he would probably get it in e made a cheaper offer than any one else, and that the Secretary of the Treasury was disposed to manage things in his own way, and instanced this letter aboinshing the general order monopoly; Colonel Leet replied—"I nave a man that can put his hand on Mr. Boutwell's shoulder;" Mr. J. R. Young, it was stated, had said that General Grant told him that I had charged that \$35,000 had been sent to General Porter; I asked Mr. Young yesierday it that were true; Mr. Young said that the President had said so; I have to say that I never knew of such an affair, and that the statement is false that I made the charge or that I apologized to General Porter; General Join Cochrace was present at the time I had an interview with Porter; Cochrane came to me on sunday and said Porter was hint at my having said that he was interested in Custom House jobs; Porter asked me if I had said it, and if I had said it, and if I had said it, and if I had said it knew it of my own personal knowledge; I explained that I did not pretend to know it of uny own personal knowledge; but I added that I believed he was so interested; he replied that notiner he nor Leet nor Babcock had any interest in the general order business; he said also that he did not know Mr. Lindsay; General Hillyer told me that of his headquarters at his iriend's, Mr. Lindsay's store; Colonel Leet at Ciaremont also told me that he had no interest in the general order business, although I knew he was getting money from Bixby; Mr. D. B. Matthison or Mr. Taylor—I think Matchison, but both were present at the time—told me that Porter, Leet and Lindsay were interested in this business, and had underliet it to Bixby; it was common talk among Quistom House people that Porter was interested; Mr. H. M. Williams, Deputy Collector at that time, told me something about it; I don't pretend to give exactly what he said; I believe he

Spect for it.

Q. You served under Johnson—had you much respect for him? A. Yes, but I held office under the Collector.

Q. You served under Johnson—had you much respect tor him? A. Yes, but I held office under the Collector.

Q. And you do not respect Gen. Grant? A. There are men for whom I have a higher admiration.

Q. Did you ever hear of an interview between Mr. Grinneit and General Porter? A. I was informed by Mr. Mason that General Porter was coming on here: I thought it disgraceful to the administration that these adventurers should come on here and get these jobs; General Porter did come on and I heard he forced Mr. Grinneit to give the general order business to Leet.

The witness was then examined at tedious length by Senator Howe in regard to the Cartage Bureau, which he ctaimed to have been established for the benefit of an adventurer (Mr. Stocking) connected with the White House—a military ring. Mr. Lindsay, according to Mr? Mudgett got it up, but he did not think he did so "for the public good."

A. P. Miller, a warehouseman doing business in Washington street, testified as to the general charges for storage, &c. His evidence was of the same character as that of the score of other witnesses on these points who are adverse to the general order monopoly of Leet & Co. He thought the present rates charged by the latter firm altogether too high.

The Committee then adjourged until half-past seven o'clock.

Evening Session.

The committee reassembled at haif-past seven. A larger number of spectators was present during last evening than at any previous sitting, and the evidence taken was of more than usual interest. Ex-Collector Murphy and his friends were on hand, attentively watching the proceedings. A lengthy communication was received from Lewis & Co., complaining of losses of goods in Leev's stores, and enclosing copies of an abortive correspondence with Collector Europa on the subject. It was de-

ment of the bribe hastens the delivery of the goods.

Q. What remedy would you suggest? A. That would be a long story; but one of the cheft causes of trouble at the present time is the insecurity of the position of subordinate officers; taey are placed there for a time and exposed to every temptation; if their position was made depondent upon their good conduct instead of on the caprice of any change of government a feeling of honor would arise which would stop the present corruption.

Senator Platif—How mute is the gratuity generally paid? A. From ten to fitteen dollars.

Q. What effect does this have upon the conscience of the inspectors in the race of their oath? A. I cannot testily relative to an inspector's conscience—liagner)—I cannot answer such a question.

Q. Please stats what is the duty of an inspector in unloading. A. He holds the invoices in his band, sees that the goods are all discharged and attends to the business of unloading generally.

Senator Casserily—You say an inspector can annoy you in many ways without going outside of his duty? A. Yes, sir, in many ways.

Q. What effect does it have pon the service? A. A very demoralizing one; it compels men to violate their oaths, and leads them to expect payment outside their regular salaries; if I might make a suggestion, I would say that if strps were allowed to unload at night there would be less confusion.

Senator Strawart—Would it not be better to pay this gratuity into the hands of the collector of the port, and let aim pay the men? A. I do not think so. This would make it a regular thing; but the inspectors would still manage to receive something privately, and they would look for it too. (Laughter.)

Q. Have steamships ever reported, those cases? A. No; it has been a public secret (lauguter; every one was aware and is aware of the practice; there was no use in making confplaints; the only remeny I can suggest she the same as I have stated before—that the men should be given a life tenure of their offices, and the agents of the seamship compa

sunset.

Senator Hows—If the term of office was permanent and the pay higher how would the steamship companies get on? A. Things would be managed fairly, and a class of honorable men would be employed, which would no longer render bribery

ployed, which would no longer render bribery necessary.

Q. Do you enter these transactions on your books?

A. Yes, but in an indirect manner.

Q. You say the payments are not specific sums?

A. They depend upon the nature and the amount of the service rendered; we have to pay more now than some years ago; there is very rarely that a payment is made under \$20.

Q. If they accept ten or twelve dollars from the picayune lines—the loman and Cunard laughter—why don't you reduce your payments? A. Our cargoes are of a different class; the goods are not so easily handled.

The witness was examined until a late hour relative to these points? At the conclusion of his evidence the committee adjourned until ten o'clock this morning.

A Terrible Denth in a Jersey Paper Mill. A Terrible Denth in a Jersey Paper Mill.

An occurrence of a most appailing character happened yesterday about noon in the Silver Spring Paper Mill, at Bloomfield, N. J. A man named Hogan, Gildershaw or Gibtonson was caught in the machinery white attending to his work and his right arm torn out from its socket. His head was caught also and the oranns scattered about the place. It is unnecessary to say that death was instantaneous, it seems in was caught by the belting. He was a man of inheldic age and leaves a wife and family.